

## CHAPTER 7 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an inventory of a wide range of community facilities and services and assess their adequacy for serving the present and future population growth and economic needs of the City of Sandy Springs. The information contained in this chapter will assist the City in coordinating the planning of public facilities and services with new development and redevelopment projects, as well.

Community facilities can be grouped into larger areas of concern, summarized below. Though this Chapter is not organized according to these groupings, discussion follows them sequentially. Transportation is addressed in a separate chapter

- (1) **Public safety**, including crime, law enforcement (sheriff, police, courts, corrections) fire protection and rescue operations, emergency medical services, 911, emergency management and animal control.
- (2) **Health, education, and welfare**, including hospitals, nursing homes, public welfare programs, public and private school systems and institutions of higher learning, libraries, and public cemeteries.
- (3) **General administrative facilities**, such as administrative offices for city and county personnel, including management, building inspections, economic development and tourism, and business licensing among others.
- (4) **Utility-type operations**, such as solid waste collection and disposal, water systems, sewer systems, and stormwater management.
- (5) **Parks and cultural facilities**, including state and local parks, local recreation programs, and cultural and community assets.

Many of the services in this section are provided by Fulton County, including schools, libraries, water and sewer, sheriff department and justice, countywide health, and emergency management. To the extent that community facilities and services are provided directly by Fulton County, rather than the City of Sandy Springs, the description in this Chapter is brief and refers mostly to information already compiled in the Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities and Services Element.

Sandy Springs has prepared a comprehensive map of public facilities in the city, titled "Government Facilities, Parks and Recreation." That map is not reproduced in this Chapter due to the size and detail of the map, but it is referred to throughout this Chapter with regard to the location of public facilities.

### SHERIFF AND COURTS

All of Fulton County is served by the elected Fulton County Sheriff, who is a constitutional officer responsible for law enforcement, court services, and the Fulton County jail. Details about the Fulton County Sheriff's Department and the various courts within the Fulton County Court System are provided in the Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element.

## **POLICE PROTECTION**

The Sandy Springs Police Department began day-to-day coverage of the 37-square miles of the city at midnight on July 1, 2006. Prior to that date, Sandy Springs was served by the Fulton County Police Department out of the North Fulton Service Center. At initiation of municipal police service, the Sandy Springs Police Department had 86 sworn officers, including administration, investigative and uniformed personnel (Sandy Springs Website).

During the planning horizon (2006-2030), Sandy Springs will expand its facilities for municipal departments, including police. As it considers other facility options, the following may help in the decision-making process. Police facilities should be located as centrally as possible to the center of activities, because doing so may reduce travel time from the facility to patrol zones. There are also advantages of using major public buildings such as a police headquarters building and/or city hall as civic anchors in town planning and redevelopment or revitalization efforts.

Sometimes, police facilities are “decentralized” and are co-located with fire stations. Future facility planning might consider the prospect of using future fire stations both as fire stations and police precincts. There may be a preference, however, for one centralized location, as opposed to providing for decentralized police space to meet future demands. Communication and coordination issues are a primary reason why the city might favor one centralized location for police department administration and police operations, rather than a decentralized approach to service delivery.

## **MUNICIPAL COURT AND INCARCERATION**

Sandy Springs provides municipal court services out of its current City Hall location on Roswell Road in the Morgan Falls area. The city has an agreement with a private vendor to help staff the municipal court. Case dockets have recently been heavy, and standing-room only conditions have been experienced recently in the city’s court room/Council chambers. As a result, more municipal court sessions are being added to address the heavy and growing caseload.



**Sandy Springs City Offices**

Sandy Springs does not operate a city jail. It currently has an agreement with the City of Roswell to house offenders at Roswell’s jail. Furthermore, Sandy Springs recently arranged to begin housing offenders in jails in the City of Doraville, Georgia, and Irwin County, Georgia, according to a recent newspaper account and as described under “intergovernmental agreements.”

Although municipal court is not specifically listed as an eligible facility for which development impact fees can be charged, it is reasonable to include such facilities under the general

category of public safety (an impact fee-eligible activity), since a local government cannot provide the full spectrum of public safety services without considering needs for adjudication, incarceration, and corrections. The city as a part of the comprehensive planning process is going to prepare a development impact fee program for public safety and other facilities. The future, short-term and long-term needs with regard to municipal court and jails should be considered as a part of that impact fee program.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire protection is broader than many people realize at first glance—fire departments have become providers of emergency medical care, emergency management, disaster assistance, “cat in the tree” calls, rescue services, prevention programs, and many other roles. An overall objective of fire protection services is to minimize casualties and losses of property from fire by helping to prevent fires from occurring and to reduce losses and casualties from fires that do occur.<sup>1</sup>



Fire Station #2 on Johnson Ferry Road  
at Sandy Springs Circle.

### Existing Facilities

There are three Fulton County Fire Stations located within the city limits of Sandy Springs, as shown in Table 7.1. A fire station in the city limits of Atlanta, leased by Sandy Springs, is also shown.

**Table 7.1**  
**Fulton County Fire Stations and Capital Stock**  
**Serving Sandy Springs**

Number and Name	Location	# Bays	# Engines	# Ladder/ Other
#2 Johnson Ferry	Johnson Ferry Rd/ Sandy Springs Circle	3	1	1/Batt Car
#6 Spalding (also is #16)	Roberts Drive, Spalding Drive, and Dunwoody Club Drive	2	1	0
#22 Heard's Ferry	Heard's Ferry Road near Heard's Road	2	1	0
Atlanta-Sandy Springs Fire Station #4 (Atlanta Fire Station #39)	4697 Wieuca Road, NE (leased per intergovernmental agreement) (outside city limits)	n/a	n/a	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Hatry, Harry P., et al. *How Effective Are Your Community Services? Procedures for Measuring Their Quality*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Washington, DC: Urban Institute and International City/County Management Association, 1992.

Source: Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, Table 5-34. Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Atlanta Re: Atlanta Fire Station 39.

Note: n/a = not available – the original source did not include this Atlanta fire station, and data were unavailable at the time this report was written/revised.

Sandy Springs has established its own Fire Department. Service coverage with regard to fire stations, and more detailed facility planning, will take place during preparation of the Community Agenda. Specifically, the City of Sandy Springs will prepare a development impact fee program for public safety, including fire protection.

## **ISO Rating**

Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) rates communities according to the adequacy of the water and fire protection systems. The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) is the manual ISO uses in reviewing the fire-fighting capabilities of individual communities. The schedule measures the major elements of a community's fire-suppression system, including but not limited to the sizes and types of buildings in a community, the presence or absence of fire alarm systems, the way calls are received and handled, whether fire fighters are paid or volunteer, the size of water mains and capacity, and how long it takes to respond to a call. Fifty percent of the overall grading is based on the number of engine companies and the amount of water a community needs to fight a fire. ISO reviews the distribution of fire companies throughout the area and checks that the fire department tests its pumps regularly and inventories each engine company's nozzles, hoses, breathing apparatus, and other equipment. The rating schedule manual uses a numerical grading called a Public Protection Classification ([www.iso.com](http://www.iso.com)). ISO ratings are based on a scale from one to ten, with a one being the best and ten being no fire protection.

## **Assessment Measures**

Unlike many other services, there are numerous metrics on which to base a determination of adequacy for fire departments. These include the overall Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) rating, amount and type of development served within radii of stations, the number of fire stations, the number of bays and square footage of individual fire stations, the staffing levels per station and piece of equipment, the rolling stock (heavy vehicles such as engines and ladder trucks assigned), the number of pieces of reserve equipment, response times, and various other metrics related to water supply including fire hydrant spacing and flow (water pressure).

## **Response Times**

The speed of providing fire suppression services is essential. Therefore, response time is often one of the more important standards for assessing adequacy. Speed is a function of distance, and therefore, radii or travel time distances are often plotted around fire stations as a measure of time as well as distance. Response times of 3 minutes are desirable. A 5 minute standard is an absolute maximum, because research into fire indicates that temperature increases and the fire builds during the first few minutes—typically three or four. After four or five minutes, unrestrained fire growth leads to flashover or ignition of the total contents of the room (or rooms, or building). Furthermore, five minutes is not sufficient when one considers that an unconscious

person with depleted oxygen will typically suffer permanent brain damage after approximately 4 minutes.<sup>2</sup>

The Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan indicates that Fulton County Fire Department's level of service standard for response time is "four minutes 90 percent of the time." However, an intergovernmental agreement (see later section) specifies a six minute response time 90 percent of the time, which is considered inadequate).

## **911 COMMUNICATIONS**

Currently, service arrangements for 911 communications for the Police and Fire Departments are handled via intergovernmental agreement (see later section of this chapter).

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a term used to describe the practice of the evaluation and management of patients with acute traumatic and medical conditions in the out-of-hospital environment. The Fulton County Office of Emergency Medical Services regulates ambulance response to county-generated requests for emergency medical services. Contracts exist between Fulton County and EMS Ventures, Inc. (doing business as Rural/Metro) as well as Grady Health System/Grady Emergency Medical Services. These private contractors receive calls for service through the county's 911 system (Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element).

Emergency medical services are often provided via Fire Departments (first responders). To the extent that such facilities and services are supplied through public safety departments (e.g., fire), they are eligible for funding through development impact fees.

The Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan indicates that Fulton County's level of service standard for response time for emergency medical services is "four minutes 90 percent of the time." However, an intergovernmental agreement (see later section) specifies a six minute response time 90 percent of the time, which is considered inadequate).

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Emergency Management is a term used to describe the steps taken by governments to plan, organize, and prepare for the saving of lives, protection of property, and the recovery from the effects of an emergency, disaster or catastrophe. The Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for maintaining and implementing the Emergency Operations Plan. The Emergency Operations Plan is the legal and organizational basis for coordinated emergency and disaster operations in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The Agency also assigns broad responsibilities to local government agencies and support organizations for disaster mitigation preparedness, response and recovery functions.

As reported in the Interim Comprehensive Plan for Sandy Springs, the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Operations Center is currently at its operational limit, and demands on the facility are increasing. More space is needed.

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<sup>2</sup> Granito, John A., and John M. Dionne.. "Evaluating Community Fire Protection." In Ronny J. Coleman and John A. Granito, eds, *Managing Fire Services*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Washington, DC: International City Management Association, 1988.

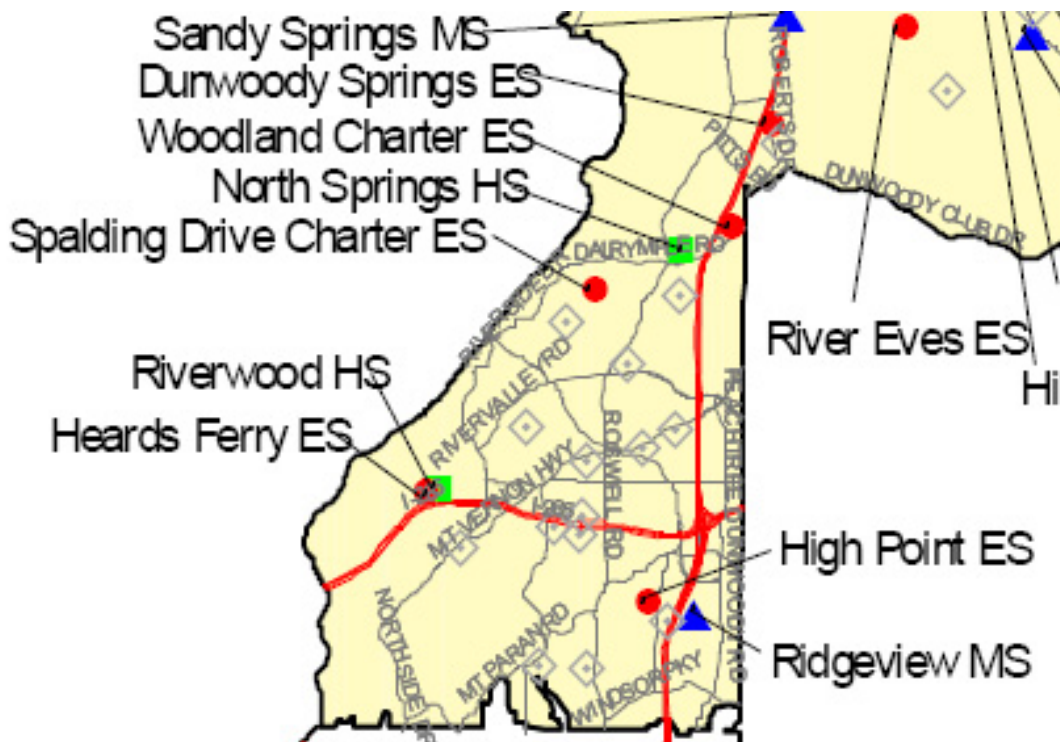
## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Fulton County serves the City of Sandy Springs with regard to health facilities and human services. The Department of Health and Wellness provides various facilities and services including environmental health. Most of the county's health centers were built long ago and are in need of replacement due to obsolescence, including the facility serving Sandy Springs at 330 Johnson Ferry Road. The Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, describes an evolving "regionalization" approach to recreating health service delivery in Fulton County. It also identifies a short-term capital facility project for the Sandy Springs/Buckhead Regional Health Center, with a projected cost (including land acquisition, design, and construction) of more than \$15 million. That project would replace two of the county's oldest health centers. The Human Services Department provides services to seniors, children/youth, and disabled persons. It also provides emergency and transitional housing and workforce development programs. In Sandy Springs, the Department operates and manages the Dorothy C. Benson Senior Multipurpose Complex, which includes the Sandy Springs Neighborhood Senior Center.

## SCHOOLS

### Public Schools

Fulton County public schools in Sandy Springs include two high schools (North Springs and Riverwood), two middle schools (Sandy Springs and Ridgeview), three elementary schools (Dunwoody Springs, Heards Ferry and High Point), and two charter elementary schools (Woodland and Spalding Drive). These schools are shown on the following map excerpt:



Fulton County Public Schools in Sandy Springs



Source: Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, Map 5-16, North Fulton School Locations

Table 7.2 provides enrollment forecasts as of 2004-2005 for each of the county public schools in Sandy Springs.

**Table 7.2**  
**Enrollment Forecasts, 2006-2010**  
**Fulton County Public Schools in Sandy Springs**  
**(Number of Students)**

<b>School</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b># Portable Class- rooms</b>
Dunwoody Springs ES	807	827	862	866	850	0
Heards Ferry ES	568	603	628	645	625	2
High Point ES	806	809	811	834	625	8
Spalding Drive ES	690	700	697	690	575	9
Woodland ES	903	919	918	915	775	11
Ridgeview MS	623	665	713	752	825	0
Sandy Springs MS	805	888	944	1031	875	0
North Springs HS	1704	1674	1681	1756	1850	0
Riverwood HS	1417	1431	1410	1396	1375	0

Source: Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, Table 5-58.

Three of the elementary schools (High Point, Spalding Drive, and Woodland) in Sandy Springs were well over capacity as of 2004-05 and had numerous portable classrooms (8, 9, and 11, respectively). Enrollment in all five elementary schools is projected to increase in the short-term (i.e., through the 2009-10 school year). Neither middle school in Sandy Springs was at capacity as of 2006 (according to forecasts in Table 7.2), but the forecast for rapid enrollment increases at Sandy Springs Middle School to 2009 suggests that it will need to add portable classrooms within the next four years. Ridgeview Middle School and North Springs High School are forecasted to remain under capacity in the short term. Riverwood High School is forecasted to have enrollments slightly above capacity during the next four years.

### **Private Schools**

Sandy Springs is a very affluent community with regard to household incomes. More affluent households often have the option of sending children to private rather than public schools. Table 7.3 shows public and private school enrollment of persons 3 years old and over in 2000 in Sandy Springs. These numbers show that private school enrollment was very significant in Sandy Springs in 2000. While affluence is a factor, the availability of good private schools in Sandy Springs (major ones are shown on the City of Sandy Springs Public Facilities Map) helps contribute to high private school enrollment in the city.

**Table 7.3**  
**School Enrollment by Type of School, Population 3 Years and Over, 2000**  
**Sandy Springs CDP**

School Attended	Public School			Private School		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nursing school, preschool	237	134	371	572	531	1,103
Kindergarten	192	228	420	239	194	433
Grades 1-4	917	872	1,789	603	803	1,406
Grades 5-8	982	826	1,808	789	651	1,440
Grades 9-12	1,057	1,038	2,095	693	547	1,240
College, undergraduate	1,158	1,157	2,315	590	534	1,124
Graduate/professional school	436	552	988	332	372	704

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, SF 3, Table P36.

## **LIBRARIES**

The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System is funded by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, along with State and federal assistance grants. By State mandate, the Library System has a governing 17-member Board of Trustees, which oversees day-to-day operations and capital improvements. The Trustees are appointed by the Atlanta City Council and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System serves the citizens of Fulton County and the City of Atlanta (including the portion of the City in DeKalb County).

Sandy Springs is served by one library located at 395 Mt. Vernon Highway NE. It was constructed in 1989 and consists of 25,000 square feet of space. Condition of the library is considered very good, and the facility is not anticipated to require replacement until the year 2064 (Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element).

As of April, 2004 in the entire library system, there were 362,542 registered library cardholders. The library has a collection of more than 2,177,267 items for adults and children, including books, magazines and other periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and videocassettes. Services provided by the library include: reference services, data bases, internet access, on-line reference services, on-line periodicals, computer labs offering word processing and other learning services, on-line renewal and reservation processes for books and other materials, computerized literacy training, homework help centers, workshops, summer reading programs, story hours, art exhibits, special programs and telephone references.

### **Level of Service and Facility Needs**

The library system is composed of the Central Library (located in downtown Atlanta), thirty-two branch libraries, and The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American History and Culture. It contains one of the foremost collections of African-American literature and historical documents in the nation.

The library system has various types of libraries: Main, Regional, Area, Community, and Neighborhood. The following descriptions provide information about each type of library.



The library system has five regional libraries which are approximately 25,000 square feet each in size. The library in Sandy Springs is classified as a “regional” library. The Library Board has approved a new facilities plan for approval by the BOCC, and it shows improvements to the Sandy Springs branch.

In order to assess the adequacy of facilities, information regarding the level of service is provided. The library system assesses its performance based on size of library, proximity to users, qualifications of full time employees, collection size, passport software, equipment, terminals, printers, and photocopiers. The current level of service is based on a general view of the use of the library system over a variety of indicators. Operational and capital funds are budgeted through Fulton County’s General Fund and State revenues. The system also derives some revenues through fees, fines, and fundraising activities. In the past, major expansions have been funded through bond referendums. The library system provides services to all residents of Fulton County, regardless of location of residence within the County (i.e., including municipalities).

Sandy Springs has entered into contract with the City of Smyrna to provide library services (see “intergovernmental agreements” in this chapter).

## **GENERAL OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

Fulton County’s principal government offices are located on several blocks in downtown Atlanta. In addition, residents of Sandy Springs and North Fulton are served by the North Fulton Service Center at 7741 Roswell Road in the Morgan Falls area.

The Sandy Springs Department of Operations includes Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Purchasing. That department handles alcohol licenses as well as business licenses and occupational tax certificates. City Hall offices are currently located at 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500, Sandy Springs, Georgia, 30350. Administrative personnel of Sandy Springs include City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.

### **Community Development**

The Community Development Department provides regulatory and administrative services, including planning, zoning, building inspections, code enforcement and the administration of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

### **Public Works**

According to the City’s website, the Public Works Department is responsible for the street transportation system which includes road and right of way maintenance, traffic engineering, transportation planning and capital improvement implementation. Public works also contributes to the Morgan Falls Recycling Center and will implement a franchise system for private waste management services in Sandy Springs.

## **WATER**

The Atlanta Fulton County Water Resources Commission water treatment plant (AFCWRC), located on Old Alabama Road in North Fulton County, is jointly owned by the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. The plant was built in 1991 with an original capacity of 45 million gallons per day (mgd). Through the operation of this plant, Fulton County supplies water to residents in North

Fulton and the majority of residents in Sandy Springs. In February of 1998, the plant was expanded to its current permitted capacity of 90 mgd. The plant's current capacity of 90 mgd is evenly distributed between Fulton County and the City of Atlanta. The Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, indicates that "there appears to be" a surplus of 8 to 14 mgd of water capacity in the Sandy Springs Service Area. The plant will be expanded to 135 mgd by late 2008. Fulton County distributes water in a portion of Sandy Springs, while the City of Atlanta distributes water in another portion of Sandy Springs.

Issues with the water system serving Sandy Springs may include the following: the possible need to replace water meters, implementation of water conservation and water reuse programs, and leak detection programs, among others (Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element).

## **SANITARY SEWER AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT**

Sanitary sewer systems are indispensable to maintaining community health. The sewer service provider must be able to manage water-borne waste by operating, maintaining, expanding, and replacing components of the wastewater system to ensure uninterrupted collection, transport, processing, and treatment. A key challenge for the wastewater system is to convey all sanitary wastewater flows to the treatment plant without bypassing flows into receiving waters and without causing waste backups that store sanitary sewage on private properties.

Sanitary sewerage collection and treatment is provided by Fulton County. Fulton County is the primary provider of sewerage and wastewater treatment for the County outside of the City of Atlanta. In total, Fulton County owns and operates six water pollution control plants (WPCPS). The Department of Public Works, Water Services Division, Water Protection Section, is responsible for treatment of wastewater and compliance with environmental permit levels.

Portions of Sandy Springs are served by the Johns Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, which has a design capacity of 7 mgd. However, the primary sewer service area for Sandy Springs covers approximately 31.5 square miles and consists of the area north of the City of Atlanta and south of the Big Creek and Johns Creek service areas. The City of Atlanta's R.M. Clayton plant and Cobb County's R.L. Sutton plant treat all wastewater flow generated in this area. In addition, a smaller portion of the Sandy Springs sanitary sewer service area flows to and is treated by DeKalb County. The Sandy Springs sanitary sewer service area includes approximately 260 miles of gravity sewer and 14 pump stations.

For the City of Sandy Springs, one issue that may deserve more attention is the fact that it has multiple local governments involved in the provision of sanitary sewer collection and treatment: Fulton County, City of Atlanta, Cobb County, and DeKalb County. With multiple providers involved in wastewater treatment, Sandy Springs the practice of maintaining intergovernmental service agreements to maintain wastewater treatment may become more complex over time. Fulton County Public Works Department will likely remain responsible for that issue, but the City of Sandy Springs should recognize the complexities of multiple providers with regard to sewage treatment. Related to this issue is the regional plan for wastewater treatment, prepared by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. The district's plans generally promote regional approaches, which could change the current dynamics of wastewater treatment service in Sandy Springs and the region as a whole.

## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Storm water management is concerned with channeling runoff in a safe, controlled manner to protect land areas from erosion and flooding. Like sanitary sewer systems, stormwater drainage systems are gravity-flow, but where more outfalls are available and alternatives other than connecting to the existing network can be used. Local governments have a general responsibility for ensuring that sufficient attention is given to storm water impacts, particularly along public roads. Storm drainage facilities must be designed to protect people and property from storm water inundation. Designing storm drainage systems requires engineering expertise and an understanding of hydrology, hydraulics, and drainage law.

Stormwater management is an important function of local government. Land development generally increases the rate and amount of stormwater runoff and potentially the amount of water pollution. Excessive runoff contributes to flooding and associated damage. Water contaminated during runoff results in water treatment challenges and threats to habitat. For these reasons, stormwater management is a necessary function of local government. Sandy Springs, with assistance of Fulton County, must address stormwater management issues in order to comply with various regional, state, and federal regulatory requirements.

More detailed planning for stormwater management is needed in Sandy Springs, since there are major deficiencies in the infrastructure and the system is overloaded. To address stormwater needs, Fulton County initiated the Fulton County Surface Water Management Utility/User Fee Development Project. The intent of that utility/user fee program is to provide Fulton County with stable, adequate and equitable funding in order to address current deficiencies in the stormwater system, enhance services and reduce numerous and severe drainage and water quality problems. It is very likely that the City of Sandy Springs will consider a similar stormwater utility or coordinate with Fulton County's program.

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires that local governments adopt solid waste management plans and update the short-term work program of that plan every five years. The plan is required to contain an inventory of existing solid waste management practices, identify potential alternative disposal methods, include strategies to reduce solid waste by 25 percent, and define disposal options for a ten-year planning period.

### **Planning Mandate**

Local Governments in Georgia are required under the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 to prepare and implement solid waste plans, which must also be in compliance with Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-4-3, Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for Solid Waste Management. The framework of those requirements is represented in Table 7.4.

**Table 7.4**  
**Framework for Solid Waste Planning**

Elements of the Plan	Basic Questions for Each Element		
	Inventory and Assessment	Statement of Needs and Goals	Implementation Strategy
Amount of Waste	What do we have in our community?	What do we need to meet the required reductions and projected solid waste needs?	How are we going to get there?
Collection			
Waste Reduction			
Disposal			
Land Limitations			
Education/Public Involvement			
Finance and Implementation			

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs. December 1991. *Preparing a Solid Waste Management Plan*. Atlanta: Office of Coordinated Planning.

### **Collection and Disposal**

The City of Sandy Springs does not collect standard household waste. Likewise, it does not operate any transfer or disposal facilities. Most of the services are provided by private vendors utilizing private transfer and disposal facilities both in and outside of the City of Sandy Springs. The Department of Public Works provides oversight of solid waste collection and disposal in the City of Sandy Springs.

Fulton County does not operate any solid waste disposal facilities. The Focus Fulton 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Community Facilities Element, provides an inventory of solid waste disposal sites in the area that serve Fulton County.

### **Recycling**

The City of Sandy Springs provides limited drop-off, composting, and recycling services at the Morgan Falls “Dick Schmaltz Recycling Center” in Sandy Springs.

### **CULTURAL FACILITIES**

Fulton County operates cultural facilities and provides cultural services through the Fulton County Arts Council and the Parks and Recreation Department. Fulton County is the home of major cultural institutions in the Atlanta region and the State of Georgia. Many of these facilities, such as museums, theatres, amphitheatres, auditoriums, civic centers and botanical gardens are operated by private non-profit institutions and/or by municipalities within Fulton County.

Through the Contracts for Services Program (CFS), the Fulton County Arts Council (FCAC) invests public funding, in the form of contracts for services, to support the programs of Fulton County nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The goals of the program are to foster artistic development, to support arts services delivery, and to serve as seed money to leverage additional corporate and private dollars for arts programming.

In 2003, FCAC awarded over \$3 million to 110 nonprofit and community organizations that present arts and cultural programs in Fulton County. Funds are awarded in dance, literary,

media, multi-discipline, museum, music, theatre, visual arts, community development, grassroots arts programs, the Woodruff Arts Center, and to cultural partnerships. The partnerships comprise: Art-at-Work, Hammonds House, Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund, National Black Arts Festival, and South Fulton Festival.

The Chattahoochee Nature Center, a County facility, is an educational and environmental center that serves an average of 35,000 children and 200,000 visitors annually. It contains over 100 acres of river marsh, fresh water ponds, woods, and a zoo for injured animals.

The Fulton County Arts Council (FCAC) operates five community arts centers. The Fulton County arts facilities serve North Fulton County, Sandy Springs, Atlanta, South Fulton County, and Southwest Fulton County. FCAC operates the programs in the facilities while the General Services Department of Fulton County maintains the facilities. FCAC provides a variety of classes and workshops in visual and performing arts programming. Last year, approximately 6,000 residents participated in 349 classes. Sandy Springs is served by the Abernathy Art Center, 254 Johnson Ferry Road. The center operates at capacity.

The Sandy Springs Historic Site is owned by Fulton County, under the Parks and Recreation Department. The site includes the Sandy Springs, the relocated Williams-Payne house (a house museum), outbuildings, a band shell, and greenspace. Heritage Sandy Springs, a non-profit organization, provides programming and administration of the site and museum. Some of the annual offerings include the Sandy Springs Festival, Ghostly Gathering and Celebrate Sandy Springs. The mission of Heritage Sandy Springs (HSS) is to preserve and promote the historical and cultural identity of Sandy Springs.

## **RECREATION AND PARKS**

The information in this Section is excerpted from a draft version of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan for Sandy Springs.

### **Inventory**

In August of 2006, a comprehensive inventory was conducted of all City of Sandy Springs recreation sites and facilities. The inventory included parks, indoor facilities and school recreation areas where a formal agreement is in place to permit programming. The inventory identified 21 recreation sites, which serve residents of the community. Of these sites, 12 are public parks, one is an undeveloped site dedicated for park use and three are indoor facilities. In addition to public parks and indoor facilities there are additional recreation sites available for use by local residents. These include three units of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA), which are administered by the National Park Service (NPS), and two recreation sites under the jurisdiction of the Sandy Springs Conservancy (SSC), a 501(c)(3) organization. Privately owned and operated recreation facilities are also available to residents of the city; however, the city cannot develop facilities, maintain or program these sites, and therefore they are mentioned in the inventory, but are not counted in the inventory.

There are no school recreation areas included in the inventory as there are no formal joint-use agreements in place that permit city residents to utilize school facilities.

The system-wide facilities inventory classifies recreation sites by type, determines their acreage, provides a general description of the site, evaluates utilization, assesses the condition of facilities and identifies any needs for maintenance to either the site or to individual facilities.

**Table 7.5**  
**Classifications and Service Areas For**  
**Parks and Open Space**

CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	SERVICE AREA	SIZE CRITERIA
Small Urban Park	Addresses Limited, Isolated Or Unique Recreational Needs Or Resources.	Up To 1/4 Mile	2500Sq.Ft. to 2.5 Acres
Neighborhood Park	A Basic Unit Of The Park System, Focuses On Informal Active And Passive Recreation, Meeting Some Of The Social And Recreational Needs Of Users.	1/4 - 1/2 Miles	3.5 - 10.0 Acres
Community Park	Serves Broader Purpose Than A Neighborhood Park, Focuses On Meeting Community-Wide Needs.	1/2 - 3 Miles	30.0 - 50.0 Acres
Regional/Large Urban Park	Serves Broader Purpose Than Community Parks And Meets Wider Range Of Active And Passive Recreational Needs.	Entire Community	75.0+ Acres
Athletic Complex	Consolidates Heavily Programmed Athletic Fields And Related Facilities Into Larger Sites Strategically Located Throughout The Community.	Variable	40.0 - 80.0+ Acres
Special Use Area	Park Or Recreational Facility Oriented Towards A Specific Use.	Variable	Variable
Indoor Facility	Community Center, Cultural Center Or Recreation Center Devoted To The Provision Of Multiple Active And/Or Passive Needs Of The Community.	Variable	Typically Located Within Community Parks
School Recreation Area	Generally Provides A Venue For Indoor And/Or Outdoor Active Recreation, Complementing Other Parks.	Variable	Variable
Greenway/Linear Park	Passive Use Area Which Links Parks Or Other Recreational And Cultural Facilities Forming A Continuous Park Environment.	Determined By Resource Availability	Variable

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Source: Modified Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, NRPA 1994.

### **Small Urban Parks**

There are two small urban parks within the city, each of which is located within a residential area.

Table 7.6 summarizes the inventory of small urban parks.

**Table 7.6**  
**Small Urban Parks**

	<b>East Conway Drive</b>	<b>Ed Morley</b>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	0.44	0.33
Active Acres	0.00	0.00
Passive Acres	0.44	0.33
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>		
Landscaping	Yes	Yes
Flower Garden	Yes	
Gazebo	1	
Walkways	Concrete	
Benches	Yes	
<b>SITE CHARACTER</b>		
Topography	Level	Level
Vegetation	Partial Tree Cover	Full Tree Cover
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	Low	Very Low
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY</b>	Compatible	Compatible

*East Conway Drive Park.* Located in south central Sandy Springs at the intersection of East Conway Drive and Mt. Paran Road, this park is compatible with, and enhances the residential character of the neighborhood. The site is level and well maintained. All park facilities are passive in character, and although the park is very attractive it receives low utilization.

*Ed Morey Park.* This park is also located within a residential subdivision in north central Sandy Springs. The park consists of a traffic island at the intersection of Glenridge Drive and Spalding Drive and includes only landscaping. The park is compatible with adjacent residential areas and receives very low utilization.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Two neighborhood parks exist within the city, Abernathy Park located in the west central section of the community, and Allen Road Park in the south central part of the city.

A summary of neighborhood parks is presented in Table 7.7.



**Table 7.7**  
**Neighborhood Parks**

	<b>Abernathy</b>	<b>Allen Road</b>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	3.7	3.2
Active Acres	1.7	1.0
Passive Acres	2.0	2.2
<b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b>		
Tennis Courts	2 UL	
Basketball Courts		1 UL
Soccer Rinks		1 UL
Playgrounds	1	1
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>		
Pavilions		2
Picnic Tables		Yes
Walking Path		Yes
Pedestrian Bridge		1
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>		
Arts Center	1	
<b>SUPPORT FACILITIES</b>		
Water Fountains	Yes	Yes
<b>SITE CHARACTER</b>		
Topography	Level	Rolling
Water Features		Small Stream
Vegetation	Minimal Tree Cover	Heavy Tree Cover
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	Moderate	Moderate
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY</b>	Compatible	Compatible

Note: UL – Unlighted.

*Abernathy Park.* Abernathy Park is proximate to the intersection of Johnson Ferry Road and Abernathy Road, within a predominantly residential area. The park includes limited facilities for active recreation and contains the Abernathy Arts Center. The site is generally level and utilization of outdoor facilities is moderate.

*Allen Road Park.* Located directly adjacent to I-285 at Lake Forest Drive, Allen Road Park borders a medium to high-density residential area. The site character is rolling and ample tree cover is present. A stream traverses a portion of the site. Facilities present include courts, picnic facilities and a walking path. Maintenance needs include: stream bank cleaning, removal of a concrete restroom pad, repairs to court fencing and removal of graffiti.

## Community Parks

The city has three community parks that are geographically situated in the north (Morgan Falls), central (Hammond) and southern (Ridgeview) portions of the incorporated area.

*Hammond Park.* Located at Hammond Drive near the Glenridge Connector, Hammond Park contains a wide range of both active and passive facilities, a recreation center and community building. Every acre of land has been utilized for recreational facilities. The site is tiered and is located within an area characterized by low and moderate density single-family residential land use and mixed residential high- rise and commercial land uses. There are minor drainage problems and leaks in the buildings.

*Morgan Falls Park.* Morgan Falls Park consists of athletic fields and a public 18-hole golf course (Blue Heron). It is by far the largest park within the city in terms of land acreage. The park is located in northern Sandy Springs on Morgan Falls Road, just east of the Chattahoochee River within an area of moderate density residences and mixed commercial development. Site topography is gentle to rolling, and some of the athletic fields are located on terraces.

*Ridgeview Park.* This park is located in the southeast corner of the city on South Trimble Road, immediately east of S.R. 400. The site is generally level and heavily wooded. Ridgeview Middle School adjoins the park site on the north. The park is quite picturesque with an abundance of open space and a large central picnic pavilion. Ridgeview Park is situated within an area of low-density residential development. There is a vacant parcel to the immediate south that could be utilized for park expansion.

Table 7.8 depicts the facilities inventory of community parks.

**Table 7.8**  
**Community Parks**

	Hammond	Morgan Falls	Ridgeview
<b>ACREAGE</b>	13.3	163.86	20.2
Active Acres	13.3	163.86	3.0
Passive Acres	0.00	0.00	19.2
<b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b>			
Ball Fields		6 L, 2 UL	
Batting Cages		9	
Football Fields		1 L (MP)	
Soccer Fields	1 L		
Tennis Courts	4 L		4 UL
Tennis Striking Walls	2		
Basketball Courts	2 L		
Skating Rink	1		
Golf Course		18 Holes	
Driving Range		Yes	
Pitching/Putting Greens		Yes	
Playgrounds	2	1	1
Open Grassed Playfields			Yes
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>			
Pavilions	2	1	
Picnic Tables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cooking Grills	Yes	Yes	
Community Pavilion			1
Sitting Areas	Yes		Yes
Benches	Yes		Yes
Nature Trails	1		1
Walking Trails	1		
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>			
Youth Sports Buildings		1	
Recreation Centers	1		
Community Buildings	1		
Golf Clubhouses		1	
<b>SUPPORT FACILITIES</b>			
Maintenance Facility		1	
Restroom Buildings	1		
RR/Concessions Buildings		1	
Storage Buildings		1	
Storage Pods		2	
Water Fountains			Yes
<b>SITE CHARACTER</b>			
Topography	Terraced	Rolling	Rolling
Water Features			Stream
Vegetation	Low Tree Cover	Minimal Tree Cover	Heavy Tree Cover
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	Heavy	Heavy	Moderate
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY</b>	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible

Note: L- Lighted, UL – Unlighted, MP – Multi-Purpose.

## Passive-Use Parks

There are two passive-use parks within the City of Sandy Springs – Big Trees Preserve and the Sandy Springs Historic Site. Both of these are located proximate to Roswell Road.

Table 7.9 presents a summary of the city's passive-use parks.

**Table 7.9**  
**Passive-Use Parks**

	<b>Big Trees Preserve</b>	<b>SS Historic Site</b>
<b>ACREAGE</b>	30.0	4.87
Active Acres	0.00	0.00
Passive Acres	30.0	4.87
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>		
Commemorative Memorials		1
Memorial Bricks		Yes
Flower Gardens		Yes
Bog Gardens		Yes
Pedestrian Bridges		2
Gazebos		1
Pavilions		1
Bird Houses		Yes
Band Shell		1
Walking Trails	3	1
Boardwalks		1
Benches		Yes
Well House		1
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>		
Administrative Offices	Yes	
Historic Building/Museum		1
Milk House		1
<b>SUPPORT FACILITIES</b>		
Privy		1
Storage Shed		1
<b>SITE CHARACTER</b>		
Topography	Rugged	Level
Water Features	Streams, Springs	Stream, Spring
Vegetation	Heavy Tree Cover	Heavily Landscaped
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	Moderate	Moderate
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY</b>	Compatible	Compatible

*The John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Preserve.* The Big Trees Preserve is an urban forest and includes trees in excess of 200 years old. The site is very hilly and is adjacent to an area of moderate and high-density residential development and mixed commercial land uses. The park contains a "Backcountry Trail System" consisting of three trails that together total about one mile in length. A portion of the trail is handicapped accessible. The trails provide views of very old

white oak trees, pass by springs, parallel streams and take full advantage of the 120-foot differential in elevation. There is a small administration building on the site.

*Sandy Springs Historic Site.* The Sandy Springs Historic Site is the most attractive recreation site within the city. The site is located within an area of commercial land uses. The Williams-Payne House Museum, natural springs, garden areas, trails, a 9/11 memorial and a band shell are located within the park. There is also a bog garden and wooden boardwalk. The site is impeccably maintained.

### Special Use Areas

The North Fulton Tennis Center (NFTC) is the only special use area within the city. Located on Abernathy Road in central Sandy Springs this facility contains 24 courts, a walking trail, pavilions with picnic facilities and an administration building housing offices, a pro shop, locker rooms and restroom facilities. The tennis center is heavily utilized and is located proximate to an area of residential and commercial land uses.

Table 7.10 summarizes facilities contained within the tennis center.

**Table 7.10**  
**Special Use Areas**

	North Fulton Tennis Center
<b>ACREAGE</b>	24.36
Active Acres	24.36
Passive Acres	0.00
<b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b>	
Tennis Courts (Hard Surface)	20 L
Tennis Courts (Clay)	4 L
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>	
Pavilions	2
Picnic Tables	Yes
Walking Trails	Yes
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>	
Administration Building	1
<b>SUPPORT FACILITIES</b>	
Water Fountains	Yes
<b>SITE CHARACTER</b>	
Topography	Terraced
Vegetation	Low Tree Cover
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	Heavy
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY</b>	Compatible

Note: L – Lighted.

The facility is in need of significant physical renovation and additional maintenance. Primary repairs needed include: plumbing, electrical, HVAC, roofing and gutter repair, sprinkler systems, lighting and retaining walls. In addition, courts nine and ten need upgrading, windscreens need to be provided, landscaping needs enhancing and directional signage is needed.

### **Undeveloped Recreation Sites**

There exist two undeveloped recreation sites – Island Ford Road Site and Johnson Ferry River Access (Riverside Park). This site is presently undeveloped with the exception of a large gazebo at the top of the hill. The Island Ford Road Site is an 11.2-acre vacant parcel in the extreme northern reach of the city just to the east of S.R. 400. The site adjoins the Island Ford Unit of the CRNRA. The Johnson Ferry River Access is a 4.1-acre site that abuts the Chattahoochee River and is intended for use as a small parking area and boat launch facility.

### **Dedicated Parkland**

While there are limited, large undeveloped tracts of land within the city, there is one parcel that is being held for dedication as a park site. The site occupies 27 acres and is located in west central Sandy Springs, immediately south of Dalrymple Road. There are presently no plans for developing this parcel.

### **Indoor Facilities**

There are three primary indoor facilities providing programs that meet the recreational needs of community residents. The Arts Center at Abernathy Park, the Recreation Center at Hammond Park and the Community Building at Hammond Park all are utilized for seasonally programmed activities.

*Abernathy Arts Center.* Located as an adjunct to Abernathy Park, the Abernathy Arts Center occupies three buildings – the Arts Center, the Annex and a garage storage building. Year-around programs are offered by the Fulton County Arts Council. These programs include: pottery, oil painting, clay, drawing, portraiture, sculpture, among others. The programs are for all age groups.

*Hammond Recreation Center.* Located in Hammond Park, the recreation center includes a gymnasium, gymnastics center, a community meeting room and houses the offices of the Recreation and Parks Department. The gymnasium is set up for either full court or two half-court basketball games. The basketball court also is used for indoor volleyball. Indoor athletic programs for both youth and adults are offered on a seasonal basis.

*Hammond Community Building.* The community building is not as heavily utilized as the recreation center as it is configured primarily as a multi-purpose room for meetings, classes and programs.

Table 7.11 presents a summary of indoor facilities.

**Table 7.11**  
**Indoor Facilities**

	Arts Center	Rec. Center	Comm. Bldg.
<b>ACTIVE FACILITIES</b>			
Full Court Basketball Courts		1	
Half Court Basketball Courts		2	
Volleyball Courts		1	
Gymnastics Rooms		1	
<b>PASSIVE FACILITIES</b>			
Meeting Rooms		1	1
Art Classrooms	6		
Studio Rooms	1		
Kilns	Yes		
Galleries	1		
Kitchens	1		
<b>SUPPORT FACILITIES</b>			
Administrative Offices	Yes	Yes	
Restrooms	2	Yes	Yes
Storage Rooms	4	Yes	

### **Quasi-Public Recreation Sites**

The Sandy Springs Conservancy and the YMCA both oversee recreation sites within the city.

*Sandy Springs Conservancy.* Established in 2001, the Sandy Springs Conservancy (SSC) is an organization of concerned citizens having as its goal the preservation of recreation areas and greenspace within the city. The primary thrust of the SCC has been the Great Park at Morgan Falls. Other projects championed by this group include the Abernathy Road Greenway, the Marsh Creek Greenway and the Morgan Falls Bikeway. The Great Park at Morgan Falls and the Abernathy Road Greenway are in the planning stages and are therefore included in the facilities inventory.

*The Great Park at Morgan Falls.* In 2003 the SSC hired a consultant to prepare a master plan for this property located on the Chattahoochee River, immediately west of Morgan Falls Park. The master plan considered public land, quasi-public land and privately owned lands as part of the study area. Public lands included the riverside area (8.86 acres) south of the dam; the 32.0-acre Bull Sluice area, the existing Morgan Falls Park (28.4 acres), the R.V. "Dick" Schmalz Recycling Center (1.35 acres), the Big Trees Preserve and adjacent land (42.58 acres), and the land occupied by North Springs High School (26.9 acres). Also considered as part of the Great Park was 35 acres of land owned by the Georgia Power Company and several parcels of privately owned land presently developed for residential, office/retail and institutional land uses.

The master plan recommends a passive-use park containing trails, greenways and linkages that will connect with trail systems in adjacent counties, and become a part of the North Metro Greenlink system. In addition, the plan also includes a pedestrian bridge that would traverse the Chattahoochee River, connecting with Cobb County trails, a pavilion area and a dog park. Initial design began in 2004 and the SCC received a foundation grant to facilitate the implementation process.



*Abernathy Road Greenway.* This linear park is anticipated to be under construction in late 2006. The park will extend eastward from the intersection of Abernathy Road and Brandon Mill Road and will contain playgrounds, trails, sidewalks, a community center, a gazebo and will link to adjacent neighborhoods.

*Fulton YMCA.* The YMCA owns a soccer complex (approximately 25 acres) located at the intersection of Windsor Parkway and Peachtree-Dunwoody Road. The site is level and can be configured in different ways to accommodate approximately eight unlighted soccer fields. The site is also used for lacrosse. The site is within active floodplain, and additional undeveloped land is located to the west of this site.

### **School Recreation Areas**

The City of Sandy Springs is in the process of negotiating joint-use agreements with the Fulton County School System and with private institutions. Joint-use agreements are a valuable tool in the recreational partnering process. As an example, Sandy Springs does not have nearly enough indoor facilities to meet the needs of a population that is in excess of 85,000. A typical joint-use agreement would afford the city the opportunity to access school gymnasiums and other facilities that would allow expansion of program offerings.

The City Council has given approval to entering into three agreements for the joint-use of school recreation areas. These include:

- Sandy Springs Middle School – Use of the football field, track, baseball field, tennis courts, basketball courts, the gymnasium and cafeteria.
- Ridgeview Middle School – Use of the football field, track, baseball field, tennis courts and gymnasium.
- Spalding Drive Charter Elementary School – Use of a vacant two-acre parcel adjacent to the school for outdoor educational programs. This parcel is presently known as the North Springs Forest Preserve.

In addition to the above, negotiations are underway with the Webber School for joint-use of a soccer and baseball field.

There are additional public and private schools possessing outdoor and indoor recreational facilities that could become part of joint-use agreements.

### **National Park Service Sites**

The National Park Service (NPS) owns and operates the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA), a series of passive parks located along a 48-mile stretch of the river extending from Lake Lanier south to I-75 in Atlanta. Three of these units are located within the City of Sandy Springs.

*Island Ford.* Located at the northeast corner of the city, Island Ford is a 273.41-acre facility accessible from Roberts Drive. The park contains an extensive trail system, a small pond, a picnic shelter, picnic areas, Hewlett Lodge, canoe access to the river, a visitor information center, a Ranger station and restrooms.

*Powers Island.* Powers Island is located just north of where I-285 crosses the river in the west central portion of the city. It is one of the smaller units, having a land area of 97.37 acres including the 9.34-acre Powers Island. Entrance is from New Northside Drive and park facilities include a trailhead, hiking trails, canoe access, visitor information and restroom facilities.

*East Palisades.* East Palisades at 386.61 acres is the largest CRNRA unit and is located south of Powers Island in the southwest corner of the city. Access is gained from Indian Trail and Whitewater Creek Road. Facilities available to park users include an extensive trail system and picnic areas. Near the north end of the park along the river is a scenic overlook of the cliffs above the riverbank.

### **Private Preserves**

There are three parcels of privately owned land that are considered to be open space preserves. These are the Glenn Preserve, Vernon Woods and Huntcliff Preserve. None of these parcels include recreational facilities and none are accessible by the public at this time.

### **Analysis of Supply**

The inventory of the Sandy Springs recreation system identified 10 public parks, two undeveloped parks and one parcel dedicated to future park development. Some of these parks are under city jurisdiction while some remain under the jurisdiction of Fulton County. On August 16, the Fulton County Commission approved a Resolution resolving the issue of county parkland. Under the terms of this Resolution and purchase agreement, the City of Sandy Springs is to receive the following sites:

- Allen Road
- Big Trees Preserve
- East Conway Drive
- Hammond Park
- Island Ferry Park
- Morgan Falls Park
- North Fulton Tennis Center
- Ridgeview Park
- Sandy Springs Historic Site
- Johnson Ferry Road River Access

In addition the city will lease the park facilities adjacent to the Abernathy Arts Center and the ball fields at Morgan Falls Park for one dollar a year for 50 years.

For the purposes of developing a recreation master plan the “supply” of parkland only includes those parks and facilities that are under the jurisdiction of the city, that can be developed and programmed by the city and are maintained by the city. This would eliminate the Blue Heron Golf Club, the Abernathy Arts Center and Ed Morley Park from the “public parks” listed previously; however, these recreation sites are available for use by residents of the Sandy Springs community.

The total acreage of city public parks, including undeveloped parks and dedicated parkland is 168.77 acres.

The National Recreation and Park Association has established recommended guidelines for system-wide (local close-to-home space) recreation acreage. The guideline for local close-to-home space recommends providing between 6.25 and 10.50 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons. Applying the 168.77 acres to the City of Sandy Springs estimated present population of 87,000 equates to a supply of 1.94 acres per 1,000 persons.